

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE YELLOW  
MEDICINE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
GRANITE FALLS, MINNESOTA  
January 7, 2003**

The Yellow Medicine County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 am on Tuesday, January 7, 2003, in the board meeting room. Present were Commissioners Lynn Anderson, Ron Antony, Gary Johnson, Jane Remiger, and Chairperson Louis Sherlin. Also present were County Attorney Thomas Kramer, County Auditor Carolyn Sherlin, and news reporters Larry Magraff, and Dan McGonigle. The chairperson called the meeting to order. On motion, the agenda for the day and the minutes of December 31, 2002 were accepted and approved by the board.

Earlier that morning, Judge Bruce Christopherson conducted the Swearing-in Ceremony for newly elected county officials including the County Attorney, Auditor, Recorder, Sheriff, Treasurer, and Commissioners Lynn Anderson, Ron Antony, and Jane Remiger.

Commissioner reports were given on the following topics: RDC, Prairie Waters, Community Corrections, and Pioneerland Library.

The chairperson called for nominations for electing a new chairperson for 2003. Remiger nominated Gary Johnson to serve as chairperson, Anderson moved to cease nominations and to cast a unanimous ballot for Johnson, Remiger seconded motion, all voted in favor. Anderson nominated Remiger to serve as vice chair, Sherlin moved that nominations cease and to cast a unanimous ballot for Remiger. Antony seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Board members reviewed the last year's list of committee appointments and chose their new assignments. Anderson moved to approve the revised 2003 Committee Appointment List and designated a per diem payment for attendance at all meetings, provided that the organization itself does not pay the per diem. Remiger seconded motion, all voted in favor. Anderson moved to designate all county board members as alternates to any committee appointments in case the appointed member is unable to attend. Remiger seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Anderson moved to authorize the county auditor to issue warrants for incidental expenses for Revenue, Road & Bridge, and Ditch. Remiger seconded motion, all voted in favor. These expenses include utilities, telephone, taxes, postage, licenses and fees.

Remiger moved to set the 2003 meal allowance reimbursement at \$33 per day. Payment will not be made unless receipts are furnished. Antony seconded motion, all voted in favor. This policy applies to all persons requesting meal reimbursements.

Sherlin moved to set the 2003 mileage reimbursement at 36 cents which is the maximum allowed by the IRS. Antony seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Sherlin moved to set the automobile start-up charge at \$2 per day for employees making routine trips to the bank, post office, or other errands for county business. Remiger seconded motion, all voted in favor. Remiger moved to set the 2003 gopher bounty at \$1. Sherlin seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Sherlin moved to specify that 20% of the forfeiture fund balance be reserved for county park maintenance as per Minnesota Statute 282.09, Sub. 1. Remiger seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Sherlin moved to adopt the new 2003 Comparable Worth Schedule as proposed by the auditor's office. This schedule reflects a 4% increase to complement the salary increase given to employees in 2003 and to also work compatibly with the step system when implemented. Antony seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Sherlin moved to adopt the Compensation Policies dated January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2003, as presented by the auditor's office for use in the implementation of the Non-union Employee Step System that was adopted on December 17, 2002. Remiger seconded motion, all voted in favor.

The following depositories were designated for 2003 at the request of County Treasurer Sharon Schuler: Yellow Medicine County Bank, Granite Falls Bank, Citizens State Bank, Farmers & Merchants State Bank, Empire State Bank of Cottonwood, (*Branch office at Hanley Falls*) First Independent Bank of Wood Lake, First Security National Bank of Canby, and Canby Credit Union. Sherlin moved for the above designation, Remiger seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Sherlin moved to approve the contract with Regional Development Commission for GIS mapping and directed them to send billing to the auditor's office, Remiger seconded motion, all voted in favor.

The following resolution was considered:

## **A Resolution of Support for the Minnesota County Restructure Act of 2003**

**WHEREAS** the state of Minnesota is facing a troubled economic cycle and has a projected \$4.5 billion budget deficit for the next biennium; and

**WHEREAS** the administration and individual legislators have stated that counties should be a part of the solution to the state's deficit; and

**WHEREAS** the state legislature will considering cutting and/or eliminating aids to counties, which are used to provide essential services to the citizens of Minnesota and such cuts would result in increased local property taxes; and

**WHEREAS** the counties will be partners in achieving a budget solution but such a partnership is currently impractical for counties as the majority of county budgets consists of mandates imposed by the state and federal governments over which the counties have no discretion; and

**WHEREAS** a fundamentally new county/state relationship must be developed in which county governments have the discretion and flexibility with which to cost effectively and efficiently offer services.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** the Yellow Medicine County Board of Commissioners, comprised of the undersigned individuals, support passage of the Minnesota County Restructure Act of 2003 based on the following three key provisions:

1. Counties may provide those services that contribute to the health, safety, welfare and economic well being of the county. Counties may provide services unless directly prohibited by the state.
2. All mandates, maintenance of efforts, rules requiring the delivery of services and reporting requirements excluding those rules and mandates that originate or access federal monies are repealed.
3. Counties shall have immunity stemming from all lawsuits for failure to provide non-mandated services.

Anderson moved to adopt the above resolution, Sherlin seconded motion, all voted in favor.

Anderson moved to approve the agreement with the State Auditor's Office for conducting the county audit as per Minnesota Statute Chapter 6.48. Sherlin seconded motion, all voted in favor.

On motion by Anderson, seconded by Sherlin, and all voting in favor, the following persons were appointed to the Comparable Worth Committee: Carolyn Sherlin, Peggy Heglund, Gretchen Eliason, Larry Stoks, Mike Schaffran, Connie Erickson, Rich Rollins, Wayne De Blied, Jolene Johnson, Gary Johnson, and Ron Antony.

County Assessor Connie Erickson presented the 2003 assessment summary reviewing property sales during the past year and how they affected the property values. She reported that there were 31 agricultural sales that are higher than usual. State guidelines state that all property values must be within 15% of range. She also reported that she has started to use the new CAMA software program for the City of Echo and that it is working quite well.

Board members will meet with the following departments on a periodic basis during the year to hear any concerns or comments about county government. Assignments are:

Lynn Anderson: Attorney, Custodian, Highway

Ron Antony: Auditor, Recorder, Courts

Gary Johnson: Assessor, Sheriff, Welfare, Probation

Jane Remiger: Treasurer, Ditch, Planning & Zoning,

Louis Sherlin: Veterans Service, Extension, Highway, Public Health

The chairperson called for a meeting with Department Managers for 8:00 am at the next meeting scheduled for January 28, 2003. Items to be discussed include County Coordinator, Budgets, and Grants.

The county attorney reviewed the process to be used for abandoned property in regards to a vacant mobile home left on a parcel of tax-forfeited property located in Clarkfield. He referred to the state statute information on abandoned personal property. Remiger moved to direct the county attorney to proceed with the process, Anderson seconded motion, all voted in favor.

The following claims were presented for payment:

REVENUE FUND

Computer Profess Unlimited Inc	2,682.22
CPS Technology Solutions Inc	338.50
Governor's EM Mgmt Conf	300.00
Gary L. Johnson	243.27
Lyon County Environment	1,807.64
MACO Treasurer	1,425.00
Minnesota West TC	250.00
MN Assn Co Vets Service Office	170.00
MN Assn of Assessing Officers	150.00
MN Counties Insurance Trust	7,455.00
NACo	360.00
Pact 4 Families Collaberative	100.00
Region VI MAAO	100.00
Payments less than \$100	520.18
TOTAL	\$15,901.81

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND

A & J Auto Supply Inc	838.85
Cole Repair	287.55
Computer Profess Unlimited Inc	338.92
Engineering MN	129.00
Hanley Falls, City of	214.07
The Louis Berger Group Inc	251.16
M-R Sign Inc	344.60
MN Counties Insurance Trust	1,107.00
Westmor Industries, LLC	5,772.30
Payments less than \$100	165.27
TOTAL	\$9,448.72

DITCH FUND

MN Counties Ins Trust	9.00
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**FINAL TOTAL**

**\$25,359.53**

Meals & Per diems for the Revenue fund in the amount of \$609.73 were also presented. Sherlin moved to approve payment for the above claims, Antony seconded motion, all voted in favor. As all business for the day was completed, the meeting was on motion, adjourned.

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Chairperson, Yellow Medicine  
County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Carolyn Sherlin, County Auditor  
and Clerk to the County Board